

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01
IO-13 H-01 L-03 PA-01 NEA-10 /117 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8344

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USADB

PASS TREASURYDEP

EO 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, SHUM, ADB
SUBJECT: SECOND AGUSAN RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT

REF: MANILA 7962

1. PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC, AND HEALTH BENEFITS TO ABOUT 40,000 PERSONS (FARM OWNER/OPERATORS AND TENNANTS) WHO LIVE ALONG THE AGUSAN RIVER IN MINDANAO, ONE OF THE POOREST REGIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES. ABOUT 61 PERCENT OF THE RESIDENTS OF THESE PROJECT SITES ARE OWNER/OPERATORS WHO OWN ABOUT 66 PERCENT OF THE LAND. THE REMAINING ARE TENNANTS AND LEASE HOLDERS. CURRENTLY THE AVERAGE INCOME PER HA IN THE AREA IS DOLLARS US 250. THE AVERAGE FAMILY HOLDINGS CONSIST OF A LITTLE MORE THAN 1 HA. UNDER THE PROJECT INCOMES ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO ABOUT DOLLARS US 750 PER HA.

2. THE PROJECT INCLUDES THREE MAJOR ELEMENTS: IRRIGATION
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INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RICE CULTIVATION, DEEP WELL CONSTRUCTION FOR POTABLE WATER AND CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH STATIONS TO SERVE ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE PROJECT AREA. UNDER PROJECT CONDITIONS, RICE CULTIVATION IS EXPECTED TO YIELD TWO CROPS PER YEAR FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF 8.5 METRIC TONS PER HECTARE. CURRENTLY 95 PERCENT OF THE LAND AREA IS RAINFED AND YIELDS ONLY ONE CROP PER YEAR. BASED

ON THE PREVAILING PRODUCTION FIGURES IN THE AREA, FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO YIELD DOLLARS 7 MILLION PER ANNUM IN INCREMENTAL SALES. THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY FOR THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL 75 WELLS, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WELLS IN THE PROJECT AREA TO 119 WHICH WILL SERVE 100 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. CURRENTLY 40 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION HAS USE OF WATER FROM THE EXISTING 44 WELLS. THE HEALTH ELEMENT OF THE PROJECT INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF SEVEN ADDITIONAL BARANGAY HEALTH STATIONS IN THE PROJECT AREA. ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE NOW RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM THE EXISTING TWO HEALTH CENTERS. THE ADDITIONAL HEALTH STATIONS WILL PROVIDE HEALTH BENEFITS TO 100 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. IN ADDITION TO DIRECT TREATMENT FOR CASES OF SCHISTOSOMIASIS, THE PROJECT WILL FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS, FOOTPATHS AND BRIDGES TO OBLVIATE THE NEED FOR WALKING IN INFESTED WATERS.

3. THIS PROJECT HAS NOT AS YET BEEN FORMALLY SCHEDULED TO BE CONSIDERED BY ADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD REVIEW IS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE SEPTEMBER AT EARLIEST. DOCUMENTATION WILL PROBABLY BE ISSUED IN AUGUST IF PROPOSED SCHEDULE IS TO BE MET. EDMOND

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Message Attributes

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